

10/030,461

In the Specification:

Please Substitute the Following Paragraph in its Entirety for the First Paragraph of the Section Entitled: EMBODIMENT FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION (page 10, line 4):

*Sub* The mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars of the present invention (hereinafter referred to as the "joint") will be described with reference to the drawings. The joint 1 of the present invention consists of a hollow cylindrical body having an opening cover 2 at its end, a bolt hole 8 in its side wall, and supporting protrusions 5 on its inner wall surface. A reinforcing bar 12 inserted through a circular hole 3 provided in the opening cover 2 is supported by and secured to the joint by means of a bolt 13 threaded through the bolt hole 8, the supporting protrusions 5, and the edge of the circular hole 3 of the opening cover 2. In the joint of the present invention, the supporting protrusions 5 consist of a pair of thin-walled members extending in parallel in the longitudinal direction of the hollow cylindrical body. The portion of each thin-walled member supporting the reinforcing bar inserted through the opening cover 2 (reinforcing bar supporting portion) 6 constitutes the apex, the thin-walled member having a ridge line 7 sloping toward the opening cover 2 through which the reinforcing bar is inserted, and having contact points with the cylindrical body 20. Note that the ridge line may be a straight line or an appropriately curved line concave or convex with respect to the wall surface of the hollow cylindrical body.

Please Substitute the Following Paragraph in its Entirety for the Paragraph Beginning at Page 13, line 6, and ending page 14, line 14:

*Sub* That is, when, in performing reinforcing bar connection, the joint is engaged with one reinforcing bar side (e.g., the reinforcing bar 12-a side (hereinafter referred to as side A), the reinforcing bar first comes into contact with the supporting protrusion 5 (arranged on side A of the joint) sloping toward the side A opening cover 2 through which the reinforcing bar is first inserted, and is automatically guided toward the